

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We commit ourselves, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to joyfully submit to the authority of the Triune God, the Word of God, and the undershepherds of God; to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this Church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of its poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also commit ourselves to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our relatives, friends, and acquaintances; to walk with Christian common sense, caution, and wisdom in the world; to be fair and right in our dealings, faithful in our commitments, and as examples of Godly people in our behavior; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior,

We also further commit ourselves to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy of speech; to be slow to take offence, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

We moreover commit ourselves that, when we remove ourselves from this Church, it will never be for unreconciled attitudes or relationships, or sin(s) , nor while under the discipline of the Church; and we will as soon as possible unite with some other Church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the truth and principles of the Word of God.

Printed Name

Signature

Date

CHURCH COVENANT OUTLINE

- I. Covenant
 - A. Agreement, contract, promises – to pledge, to commit, to bind oneself
 - B. We are entering into a formal, solemn relationship of spiritual accountability

- II. Qualifications to enter into covenant:
 - A. Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, and on the profession of our faith,
 - B. having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

- III. **Accountability to God:**
 - A. Witnesses:
 1. we do now in the presence of
 - a. God,
 - b. angels,
 - c. and this assembly,
 2. most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.
 - B. Promises:
 1. Submit to authority
 - a. to joyfully submit to the authority of the Triune God,
 - b. the Word of God,
 - c. and the undershepherds of God – (authority derives only from Scripture)
 - i. the Word preached and taught
 - ii. the Word accurately applied
 - watch out for your souls (Hebrews 13:17) (LBC 26.7&8)
 - ⇒ call to keep conditions of this covenant
 - ⇒ call to identify and use of gifts
 - ⇒ call to repentance
 - ⇒ call to spiritual growth/holiness
 - iii. established in bylaws (1 Cor. 14:40)
 - matters of church government
 - ⇒ ministry leadership
 - ⇒ administration
 - ⇒ finances
 - ⇒ management of practical operations

- IV. **Accountability to one another**
 - A. Promises
 1. Stay together by love
 - a. to walk together in Christian love; (Ephesians 4:1-6; 5:1-21)

CHURCH COVENANT OUTLINE

2. Work together
 - a. to strive for the advancement of this Church,
 - i. prosperity in terms of spiritual blessings, growth, ministering to the needs within the body
 - ii. in knowledge,
 - iii. holiness,
 - iv. and comfort;
 - corporately walking together – comfort that we derive from the gospel and from ministering to one another. There is comfort found in the corporate fellowship and interaction in the body.
 - b. to promote its prosperity and spirituality;
 - i. doing everything that we can to promote the health of the body.
 - ii. Ephesians 4:12-16– church edifying itself in love
 - working together so that the body be built up and strengthened in love, concern for one another’s growth, progress, and spiritual vitality.
 - c. to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrine
 - i. to hold up and strengthen by attendance and practice,
 - ii. fulfill responsibilities involving discipline,
 - iii. responsibilities of knowing, upholding, supporting, and defending the doctrines of the church
 - importance of the Confession
3. Provide financial support -- (Sermon Audio “The Church – Tithing: Supporting Worship” Steve Garrick 03.03.13)
 - a. must come to an understanding of what it means to tithe
 - i. to contribute cheerfully and regularly to
 - the support of the ministry,
 - the expenses of the Church,
 - the relief of its poor,
 - and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.
4. Live spiritual lives
 - a. maintain family
 - b. and secret devotions;
 - c. to religiously educate our children;
 - d. to seek the salvation of our relatives, friends, and acquaintances;
 - e. to walk with Christian common sense,
 - i. caution,
 - ii. and wisdom in the world;
 - f. to be fair and right in our dealings,
 - g. faithful in our commitments,
 - h. and as examples of Godly people in our behavior;

CHURCH COVENANT OUTLINE

- i. to avoid
 - i. all tattling,
 - ii. backbiting,
 - iii. and excessive anger;
- j. to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.
- 5. Actively love each other
 - a. to watch over one another in brotherly love;
 - b. to remember each other in prayer;
 - c. to aid each other in sickness and distress;
 - d. to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy of speech;
 - e. to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

V. Accountability to the church

- A. Spiritual accountability to the church as a body
 - 1. Commitment to Biblical churchmanship
- B. Promises
 - 1. Depart in love and unite with another church
 - a. it will never be for unreconciled attitudes or relationships,
 - b. or sin(s), nor while under the discipline of the Church;
 - c. and we will as soon as possible unite with some other Church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the truth and principles of the Word of God.